

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
JOHANNES THEODOOR DE SMIT et al.
Application No.: 10/820,227

Confirmation Number: 6925

Group Art Unit: 2851

Filed: April 8, 2004

Examiner: Alan A. Matthews

Title: LITHOGRAPHIC APPARATUS AND DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHOD

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

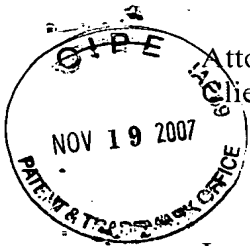
In the Notice of Allowability dated March 29, 2007, the Examiner has set forth "Reasons for Allowance." Applicants respectfully traverse these Reasons. Specifically, it is submitted that the subject matter of the allowed claims are patentable for their respective recitations of claimed combinations as a whole. That is, the patentability of the claims rests on the combination of recited elements and limitations. As such, Applicants submit that no one element or limitation in particular should be deemed to impart or be required for patentability of the claims. Furthermore, Applicants also submit that the dependent claims are allowable not only for their dependence on the allowed independent claims, but also for the additional subject matter recited in each of those dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney Docket: 081468-0309173
Client Reference: P-1583.010-US

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Sir:

Applicant confirms with appreciation the receipt of the Notice of Allowability for this application.

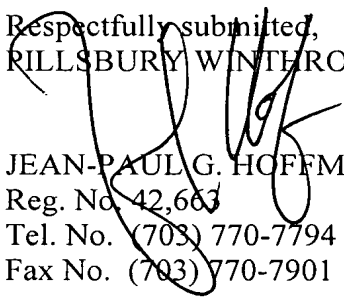
In reply to the Examiner's reasons for allowance in this application. Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the allowed claims are patentable for their respective recitations of claimed features as a whole, without any particular criticality or distinguishing feature being attributable to any one or more of such features, and without any narrowing interpretation being imposed on any of such features. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that no one element or limitation in particular should be deemed to impart to or be required for patentability of the claims. Applicant also submits that the dependent claims are allowable for their dependence on the allowed independent claims and further for the additional subject matter recited in each of those dependent claims.

These comments are being filed concurrently with the Issue Fee.

DE SMIT ET AL. – 10/820,227
Attorney Docket: 081468-0309173

Please charge any fees, if any, associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975 (Ref. No: 081468-0309173). The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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